

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 226

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor Harold Patton upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens who are dedicated to promoting the importance of farming in our society; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in agriculture have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Harold Patton, who was inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 2, 2013, for his life's work as a farmer and agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, born in 1935, Mr. Patton is the third child of Maggie and Dayton Patton and settled with his parents on the family farm in Watertown, Tennessee, when he was in the third grade; and

WHEREAS, helping his father on the farm, young Harold Patton learned the value of hard work as he spent many hours working in the fields and milking cows as his family raised various crops and operated a dairy; and

WHEREAS, a four-year letterman and captain of the football team, Mr. Patton's high school years saw him active in Future Farmers of America and music as he was selected "Best All-Around Student"; and

WHEREAS, after his graduation in 1953, Mr. Patton accepted employment in Nashville with Ragland-Potter Co., a wholesale food distributor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton was joined in holy matrimony with Lynda Bass in 1954, and their blessed union produced two children, Kimberly Patton Tuggle and James Anthony Patton; three grandchildren, Kristin Tuggle Sagerholm, Dr. Jessica Patton, and Cole Patton; and two great-grandchildren, Isabella and Vikka Sagerholm; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Harold Patton launched his storied career in the agriculture co-operative industry when he was employed by Tennessee Farmers Co-Op, first working inventory control before advancing to the position of buyer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton joined the staff of Wilson Farmers Co-op eleven years later when he was named assistant manager under Mr. Ira Partlow. Upon Mr. Partlow's retirement in 1969, Harold Patton became manager – a position he held until his retirement in 2002 with a total of forty-three years of combined service to the farmers of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton has also operated a highly successful livestock operation, raising registered Angus and Chiangus cattle and owned the 1994 National Chiangus Champion Female and the 1995 National Chiangus Cow-Calf Champion; and

WHEREAS, a highly-respected leader in the community, Harold Patton is a longtime member of the board of directors for Wilson Bank and Trust; he is also a member of the Wilson County Fair Board and the Wilson County Livestock Association; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart servant of the Almighty, Mr. Patton is a member of Shop Springs Baptist Church, where he serves as deacon, treasurer, and assistant music director; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Patton was the recipient of the prestigious Mike Baker Award; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest agricultural standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor Mr. Patton for his lifetime of achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Harold Patton upon his induction into the Wilson County

Agricultural Hall of Fame and recognize his laudable contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.